



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 146

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2000

No. 121

Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2000)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

God of hope, You have shown us that authentic hope is rooted in Your faithfulness in keeping Your promises. We hear Your assurance, "Be not afraid, I am with you." We place our hope in Your problem-solving power, Your conflict-resolving presence, and Your anxiety-dissolving peace.

Lord, You have helped us discover the liberating power of an unreserved commitment to You. When we commit to You our lives and each of the challenges we face, we are not only released from the tension of living on our own limited resources, but we begin to experience the mysterious movement of Your providence. The company of heaven plus people and circumstances begin to rally to our aid. Unexpected resources are released; unexplainable good things start happening. We claim the promise of Psalm 37, "Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."—vs 5,7. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CRAIG THOMAS, a Senator from the State of Wyoming, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, today the Senate will begin final action on the H-1B visa bill, with a vote on final passage scheduled to occur at 10 a.m.

Following the vote, the Senate will proceed to executive session to debate four nominations on the Executive Calendar. Under the previous order, there will be several hours of debate, with votes expected on the nominations during this afternoon's session. The Senate may also consider any appropriations conference reports available for action.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY ACT OF 2000

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that we are now in the

time equally divided on the H-1B matter to be voted on at 10 o'clock.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H-1B originated in our immigration laws in the 1950's so that trained professionals could work for a limited time in the U.S. In 1990, a cap was set on the category for the first time of 65,000.

Employers in every industry and sector of our economy, including manufacturing, higher education, health care, research, finance and others, have used it.

Employers from major multinational companies to small businesses seeking individuals with specific skills needed to grow their companies have used it.

It became wildly popular in the mid to late 90s following the Internet boom, when hundreds of hungry tech startups across the country began using it to recruit high tech workers from information technology jobs, mostly from India, China, Canada, and Britain. Some 420,000 are here today.

Those individuals have filled a critical shortage of high-tech workers in this country, which in fact, still exists today.

The American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act of 2000 proposes to raise the caps for the number of H-1B workers that employers can bring into the United States for the next 3 years.

NOTICE

Effective January 1, 2001, the subscription price of the Congressional Record will be \$393 per year or \$197 for six months. Individual issues may be purchased for \$4.00 per copy. The cost for the microfiche edition will remain \$141 per year with single copies remaining \$1.50 per issue. This price increase is necessary based upon the cost of printing and distribution.

Michael F. DiMario, *Public Printer*

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S9643